

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 663

By Lynn

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. Charles L. Lea for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this body should honor those estimable citizens who have performed their duties with the utmost probity and whose efforts throughout their years of industry were dedicated to providing thoughtful and exemplary service to the citizens of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Charles L. Lea is one such distinguished public servant who has served with honor and distinction during his long career in public service; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lea will soon be taking a much deserved retirement from his post as Vice President of Academic Affairs at Volunteer State Community College, leaving behind an incomparable record that present and future administrators would do well to emulate; and

WHEREAS, a proud Tennessean born in Wilson County in 1950, Charles L. Lea received both his Bachelor of Science degree and his Master of Arts degree from Middle Tennessee State University; he earned his Doctorate in Higher Education Administration from Vanderbilt University in 1986; and

WHEREAS, he served with acumen and alacrity as Director of area-wide Project on Aging with the South Central Tennessee Development District from June 1974 to August of 1976, having previously served a graduate assistantship as Director of Residence Hall Planning, Men's Affairs, at MTSU from July 1972 to July 1974; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lea began his illustrious career within the community college system of the Tennessee Board of Regents at Motlow State Community College where he served as a counselor from August 1976 to August 1979, Director of Student Services from August 1979 to August 1983, and finally Executive Director – Job Training Division from August of 1983 until

October 1987 when he accepted the post of Assistant Dean at the University of Tennessee Space Institute; and

WHEREAS, in August of 1988, Dr. Charles Lea returned to the Board of Regents system as Dean of the College at Chattanooga State Technical Community College where he subsequently served as Interim President in 1990 before being named Dean of Institutional Development in January of 1991; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Charles Lea began his illustrious tenure at Volunteer State Community College in August of 1991 when he was named Vice President of Academic Affairs and where he currently serves as chief academic officer, responsible for the oversight of 155 full-time faculty members, 400 adjunct faculty, and approximately 40 staff; and

WHEREAS, the breadth and scope of Dr. Charles Lea's professional experience and accomplishments at Volunteer State Community College are remarkable; he led the development of six new instructional programs; oversaw the development of a comprehensive distance education program and an academic honors program; crafted unique business partnerships with area business leaders in health care, logistics, manufacturing, and hospitality; developed and implemented a comprehensive instructional technology plan; and established a dual enrollment partnership program with twenty-two area high schools to name but a few of his many significant endeavors; and

WHEREAS, under his guidance and ceaseless efforts Volunteer State has enjoyed success in securing numerous grants from both private and public entities to support its mission, improved instructional support services and facilities, and increased full-time faculty by over 70%; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lea led the way as Volunteer State reached out to the community and expanded its economic development efforts in helping to attract and retain a diversified mix of business and industrial employees as well as offering support to local school systems with the establishment of the Summer Teacher Technology Institute to assist public school teachers in learning the latest in instructional technology; and

WHEREAS, greatly respected and admired by his peers and colleagues across higher education institutions across Tennessee, Dr. Lea serves as chair of the Board of Regents

Online Degree Program Oversight Committee, chair of the Board of Regents Developmental Studies Taskforce, member of the Board of Regents Online Degree Program Strategic Planning Committee, and the Board of Regents Academic Affairs Sub-Council; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Charles Lea is a graduate of the Board of Regents Community College Leadership Academy, where he was a member of the inaugural class, and the University of Tennessee Institute for Leadership Effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, a frequent presenter and featured speaker at professional meetings and education seminars, Dr. Charles Lea is a member of the Tennessee College Association, the North Tennessee Education Edge Consortium, and the National Council of Instructional Administration; and

WHEREAS, a respected, committed, and vocal supporter of Economic and Community Development who established two apprenticeship programs and developed degree programs in critical need areas at Vol State to help secure local jobs, Dr. Lea serves as chair of the Youth Council for North Central Tennessee Workforce Development Board and is a member of the City of Hendersonville Economic Development Task Force, the board of directors for ExCEED (Excellence in Community Education and Economic Development), Inc., and Forward Sumner; and

WHEREAS, currently chair of the Salvus Center Board of Directors, this exceptional gentleman has also served as past president and board member of the Hendersonville Samaritan Association; founding board member and past president of the American Heart Association, Sumner County Chapter; founding president of the board of the Ellis Middle School Parent Teacher Association; and as a member of the Lebanon-Wilson County Chamber of Commerce, the Springfield-Robertson County Chamber of Commerce, and the Hendersonville Area Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lea is an active and devout member of First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, where he serves as a Deacon, Sunday School Teacher, and Trustee; and

WHEREAS, he is also deeply devoted to his family and is most appreciative of the love, support, and companionship he shares with his wife, Rita W. Lea, and his two children, Walter Lewis Lea and Lauren Rachel Lea; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Charles Lea exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career at Volunteer State Community College, Vice President Lea has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues, staff, and students alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and thank Dr. Charles L. Lea for his many years of meritorious service to Volunteer State Community College, commend his laudable service to the good people of Tennessee, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.